

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-10 ISO-00 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

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P R 061929Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3841

INFO AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS PARIS 25813

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FR, CD

SUBJECT: CLAUSTRE AFFAIR

REF: PARIS 25399 (NOTAL)

1. ON OCTOBER 6, THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE ON THE CLAUSTRE AFFAIR, AN EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF WHICH FOLLOWS:

2. "AN ULTIMATUM WAS ISSUED BY MR. HISSEN HABRE STATING THAT MME. FRANCOISE CLAUSTRE WOULD BE EXECUTED IF THE AUTHORITIES DID NOT DELIVER BY SEPTEMBER 23, 1975, THE RANSOM AGREED TO LAST JULY 17. FRENCH AUTHORITIES MADE IT KNOWN THAT THEY WERE PREPARED TO PAY IT. AFTER THE MISSION OF MR. MOREL ON SEPTEMBER 25, THE SUM IN CASH WAS TURNED OVER AND TWO DELIVERIES OF SUPPLIES AND MATERIAL TOOK PLACE ON THE AGREED DATES. ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, TWO AFRICAN EMISSARIES ACCEPTABLE TO THE REBELS AGAIN MET IN THE TIBESTI FOR THE PURPOSE OF

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OBTAINING, AS A COUNTERPART, DETAILS CONCERNING THE

DATE AND MEANS OF MME. CLAUSTRE'S LIBERATION.

3. "AFTER SEVERAL HOURS OF DISCUSSION AND EVEN THOUGH THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAD HONORED ITS ENGAGEMENTS, MR. HISSSEN HABRE FINALLY STATED THAT HE WOULD NOT FREE MME. CLAUSTRE UNTIL ARMS HAD BEEN DELIVERED TO HIM.

4. "THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT CONDEMNS THIS DEMAND SINCE THE NEGOTIATOR HAD INDICATED, AND THE FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE HAD STATED AT THE UN, THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF DELIVERING, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, SUCH ARMS.

5. "THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT CONFIRMS THAT IT WILL NOT AGREE TO DELIVER ARMS FOR THE FOLLOWING TWO REASONS:

(A) THE DELIVERY OF WEAPONS, IN CONTRADICTION WITH THE REFUSAL OF THE LEGAL AUTHORITIES OF THE COUNTRY CONCERNED AND WITH THE UNANIMOUS DECISION OF THE OAU, WOULD BE CONTRARY TO THE AFRICAN POLICY OF FRANCE AND TO ITS INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS;

(B) THE DELIVERY OF ARMS TO PERSONS WHO HAVE TAKEN HOSTAGES, UNTIL NOW TOTALLY WITHOUT PRECEDENT, WOULD CONSTITUTE A NEW STEP IN THE ESCALATION OF INTERNATIONAL VIOLENCE WHICH FRANCE REFUSES TO TAKE.

6. "CONSEQUENTLY, FRENCH AUTHORITIES, INDIGNANT AT THE ARBITRARY DETENTION OF MME. CLAUSTRE, ARE ASKING INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS TO ASSURE THE PROTECTION OF AND ASSISTANCE TO MME. CLAUSTRE AND ARE SEEKING WITH AFRICAN STATES AND THEIR ORGANIZATIONS THE MEANS TO END THIS SITUATION WHICH IS AN OUTRAGE TO JUSTICE AND TO THE RIGHTS OF MAN."

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